

INSPIRING INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

6C.4 Course retakes and
second attempt for credit

CURRENT POLICY at UTSC

Current academic regulations around re-taking a course can be found in section 6C.4 of the undergraduate Academic Calendar. These regulations state:

- 5. Students may not re-register for credit in a course they have already passed, but they may re-register in a course they have taken, but failed. In the latter case, both registrations in the course are shown on the student's record, and both grades count in the student's CGPA.*
- 6. Where students may not register in a course for credit, they may register in it as an extra (EXT) course. In such cases, the course is shown on the student's record but the grade is not included in the student's CGPA, nor does the course count towards the program admission requirements or the degree requirements; however, if appropriate, it may be used to meet program course requirements.*

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES

1. Allow UTSC students to retake up to 1.0 credit of courses they have successfully completed to count for credit.
2. The first attempt will become EXT and will not be used in the CGPA calculation. The second attempt will count for credit and will be used in the CGPA.

THE LANDSCAPE: Second Attempt for Credit

2019

- UTM introduced policy
- SCSU advocates for policy at UTSC

2021

- FAS introduced policy

2022

- SCSU petition

RATIONALE

Allows students to attain the required course grade to provide access to limited enrolment programs and courses.

Provides a viable “second chance” to allow students to be successful if they have had a setback.

Creates tri-campus alignment across the arts and science divisions.

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AAC – March 2023

CONSIDERATIONS

Can students use the Second Attempt for Credit policy for any reason they wish?

Students need to request and be approved for use of the SAC and a course can only be retaken once. This policy is intended for use only:

- When students need to achieve a higher grade in a course for entry to a limited-enrolment program;
- When students need to achieve a minimum grade in a course to satisfy a course prerequisite;
- When students need to demonstrate a level of performance for an external credential or future graduate study.

CONSIDERATIONS

Does the SAC policy inflate student CGPAs?

The CGPA impact of 1.0 credit of improved grades over the course of 20.0 credits is very minimal. Additionally, academic standing is not recalculated for the session of the original course after it becomes EXT, so the SAC policy cannot be used to circumvent probation.

CONSIDERATIONS

Does the SAC policy create a significant increase in students retaking courses? Does it place a strain on course availability and program POSt processes?

To date, UTM and FAS have not reported concerning issues regarding the volume of requests or complications with the POSt process. We are consulting further with our counterparts at UTM and FAS and more data will be gathered in the coming weeks.

CONSIDERATIONS

What if a student wishes to retake more than 1.0 credit?

Students may use the SAC policy for only 1.0 credit. Retakes beyond 1.0 credit will be handled through the original policy (second attempt is counted as EXT).

Other questions and considerations?